



Montana

Department of Labor and Industry

Commissioner's Office

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Governor Brian Schweitzer Works to Secure Employment Opportunities for Laid-Off Stillwater Mining Workers

Governor Brian Schweitzer and the Montana Department of Labor and Industry (MDLI) are working to ensure that miners who are being laid off from Stillwater Mining Company will have the opportunity for a job when the mine closes its doors. "We will do all that we can to make sure that these Montana workers can transition into new jobs as quickly as possible so that they can keep providing for their families."

Although the Governor was "disappointed that so many jobs would be gone from Stillwater Mining" for a serious, if not permanent, period of time, he contacted Signal Peak Energy, owner/operator of the underground coal mine near Roundup, for help. The Governor asked the company to host one or more "job fairs" to give some of the soon-to-be laid off underground miners an option for employment that can utilize their underground mining skills. Signal Peak, which expects to employ an additional 100 underground miners next year when the mine preparations are complete, agreed to conduct one or more "job fairs" for laid off Stillwater miners in conjunction with the "rapid response" activities of MDLI.

The Governor "applauded Signal Peak for their act of good business citizenship" in conducting the job fairs. "We are all Montanans ready and willing to help each other in times like this," the Governor said. As soon as the MDOLI can complete coordination efforts with Signal Peak, the Stillwater workers will be made aware of the "job fair" opportunities, according to Keith Kelly, Commissioner of labor and Industry.

The MDLI's "Rapid Response" team is working to make the transition of laid-off workers to new jobs as seamless as possible. The Billings and Livingston Job Service offices, along with the Unemployment Insurance Call Center in Billings are working to provide information on services available to those being laid off. Job Service staff and Unemployment Insurance staff will attend informational sessions set up by Stillwater Mining Company in Big Timber and Laurel.

- Informational Sessions in Laurel will take place Thursday November 20th at 3:00pm and 7:00 pm at the Best Western Yellowstone Gateway Inn.
- Informational Sessions in Big Timber will take place on Monday November 24th at 3:00 pm and 7:00pm at the Palladium Lodge.

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The Billings Job Service Office has also set up informational sessions to provide services to the affected employees of Stillwater Mining and their contractors. The office is also coordinating possible services provided through the Montana State University - Billings, College of Technology.

For more information on how the Job Service is responding you can call Frank Fleming, Manager of the Billings Job Service Office at 406-652-3080 or Joyce Heiser, Manager of the Livingston Job Service Office at 406-222-0520

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